University excess credit surcharge has appeal process

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Students have been charged extra fees in their tuition when they end up taking more credits than recommended to graduate since the Florida Legislature passed a statute in 2009.

This policy, better known as the “excess credit hour surcharge,” was established to motivate students to graduate on time. However, this sort of policy poses a problem for students who take extra courses to fulfill scholarship requirements, are simply undecided and took courses to explore different majors.

These sort of cases may cause students to surpass the course credit limit set by the statute and end up posing a financial burden as a surcharge is applied for every additional course taken.

“Surcharges limit learning,” said Sachin Koorethota, a junior in computer science and information management. “It’s a bad business move, but the state and federal government have their regulations; therefore, FIU cannot be singly blamed.”

Koorethota said the problem is bigger than just FIU students, since all other student communities across the state that are being weighed down by excessive fees for exceeding credit hour limits.

There is no waiver, but students can appeal to review the hours that have been applied to their surcharge.

April Lewis, a senior in computer science and manager of the Surcharge Appeal Committee, said the problem cannot be singly blamed.

“Professors [in Argentina] like to require us to read, take an unrelated exam, and then waiting for the exam,” he said.

“Rather than studying, the professor asks you to do the research,” he said.

“The rule, said Mirow.

“By taking required preparation courses, LL.M. students also have the option to sit for the New York bar exam.

Students are not eligible to take the Florida bar exam, but they can take the New York bar exam and practice law in New York.

To take the Florida bar exam, they must have a Juris Doctorate degree.

Lema plans to sit for the New York bar exam. She thinks FIU is a very prestigious and fast-growing University.

“I will study hard every day and I will try to learn every aspect of the subjects that I’m going to study at the L.L.M.,” said Lema.

COLD (PRE -) MEDS

University pressed and pre health clubs got together to challenge FIU with the amyotrophic lateral sclerosis ice bucket challenge on Sept. 24. A $2 donation to the ALS Association required to participate.

FBI seeks panther-clad bank robber

The Federal Bureau of Investigations is asking for the public’s help to identify a man who robbed a bank across the street from the University last week.

The suspect, who was wearing an FIU shirt at the time of the crime, walked into a BB&T Bank branch on the 800 block southwest of 107 Avenue at approximately 9:37 a.m. on Sept. 25.

He took an undisclosed amount of money and walked out without any injury or incident. There was a customer inside the bank at the time of the robbery.

The FBI asks that anyone who has information or can identify the bank robber, to call them at 305-944-9101 or call crimestoppers at 305-471-8477.

FOREIGN ATTORNEYS PUT THEIR DIFFERENT PERSPECTIVES TO GOOD USE AT THE UNIVERSITY

CAMILA FERNANDEZ
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With the opening of a new Master of Laws program, international foreign attorneys are looking to broaden their horizons on the U.S. legal system.

Offered by the University’s College of Law, the program is a postgraduate course in law for lawyers who have completed their first law degree in another country.

Through courses of their choice and interest, students are offered a year of exposure to U.S. culture and its system of common law.

However, many of these students are not familiar with the different teaching methods used by U.S. law professors.

Coming from Buenos Aires, Argentina, Axel Lema said that law professors from his country do not allow students to participate in class lectures.

“Professors [in Argentina] like to make long speeches in classes,” said Lema, a L.L.M. student. “It’s very unusual to see students participate in class.”

Lema had been working as a lawyer in Buenos Aires for ten years.

“I love Miami,” said Lema. “It’s receiving a lot of money from Latin America and from all over the world.”

Matthew Mirow, associate dean of International and Graduate Studies, said many of these students come unfamiliarized with the “socratic method” used in the study of U.S. law.

Through the use of the socratic method, law students are expected to answer questions in a back-and-forth dialogue with their professors.

It pushes the limits of a particular legal rule, helping the student to understand the proper application of that rule, said Mirow.

“That’s all very different for many of these students who are used to sitting in class and just taking notes, and then waiting for the exam,” he said.

Cyra Choudhury, an associate law professor, said LL.M. students tend to approach legal questions more broadly.

“As a comparativist, she enjoys having people in her classes who are trained in different legal systems because of their unique perspectives.

“If they come from abroad, they bring insights from their home countries, which helps clarify issues we deal with in the U.S.,” said Choudhury. “They are able to provide examples and perspectives that we would otherwise not get.”

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“I will study hard every day and I will try to learn every aspect of the subjects that I’m going to study at the L.L.M.,” said Lema.
The former federal prosecutor and close friend of one that took shape relatively late in his tumultuous polarizing figures. Holder, 63, leaves an impressive administration’s most progressive voices and a nearly six-year tenure as one of the Obama announced Thursday he was stepping down, ending black to fill the nation’s top law enforcement post, rolling back an offensive by Islamic State fighters.

Barack Obama has sent into Iraq since July to to almost 1,400 the number of troops President from the Army’s 1st Infantry Division head U.S. withdrawal in 2011. About 200 soldiers quarters unit to the war-torn country since the on Thursday deployed the first division head in Iraq, Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel .

Mexican army officer and seven soldiers were Mexico detains 8 soldiers in killing of 22 people in June A Mexican army officer and seven soldiers were brought before a military court Thursday in connec- tion with the shootings of 22 people in June, an inci- dent officials portrayed as a gun battle. The Mexican Defense Ministry said the eight men were under a form of detention pending investigation of the June 30 killings in the town of Tlatlaya, 150 miles southwest of Mexico City. They were being held on suspicion of “crimes against military discipline, disobedience and violation of official duties,” the ministry said in a statement released Thursday night. The army initially said the 22 people were killed on June 30 in a fierce gun battle between soldiers and an armed gang and that the three kidnap victims were seized. One soldier was reported wounded. But journalists who reached the site found evidence, including blood spatters on walls, that suggested not a battle but a one-by-one killing of the gang members.

MCCLATCHY-TRIBUNE

College of nursing will celebrate life of retiree

The College of Nursing will host a Celebration of Life event at 11 a.m. on Oct. 11 for former faculty member, Margaret Hamilton, who passed away on Aug. 16.

Hamilton, who retired from the Nicole Wertheim College of Nursing and Health Sciences in 2013, worked at the University for many years. The University community can celebrate Hamilton’s life and offer their condolences in Academic Health Center 3, room 110. The family invites charitable gifts to be directed to nursing scholarships in honor of Hamilton’s life and commitment to FIU. “We will miss her greatly and offer our condolences to her family and many friends,” said a memorandum sent by the Provost’s office.

To make a gift online, go to https://give.fiu.edu/give/nursing or make a check payable to FIU Foundation with the memo “Margaret Hamilton” and mail it to Nicole Wertheim College of Nursing and Health Sciences.

State policy changes excess credit hours, University complies

Students who decide on a major and follow their major maps, stay on track and do not fail, repeat or take unnecessary classes will not face surcharge [problems].

April Lewis
Senior Academic Advisor and Manager, Undergraduate Education

University program provides new opportunities for foreign attorneys

Deividas Kursevicius, a dual major while completing the primary program, English as a second language or remedial courses and courses withdrawn due to medical or personal hardship. Failed courses, classes dropped after the add/drop period, withdrawn courses, repeated courses without the credit surcharge. Transfer credits all apply to the excess credit surcharge.

Students are frustrated when they find themselves [in this dilemma], and feel that it is an unfair policy,” she said.

Lewis said that the excess credit surcharge is not a University policy, but a Florida Statute and all institutions have to comply.

“The purpose of the statute is to encourage students to complete a degree in a timely fashion,” she said. “Students who decide on a major and follow their major maps, stay on track and do not fail, repeat or take unnecessary classes will not face surcharge [problems].

She believes that, within four to six years, the policy may not be any more restrictive than it is now.

For students that entered the University between 2009 and summer 2011, they can take 120 percent of the credits required over their course credit limit before they are charged. Students that began an undergraduate program between 2011 and summer 2012, the limit is 115 percent; since 2012, it is 110 percent.

For example, if the program is 120 semester hours to graduate, then a student that began their program before fall 2011 can take up to 144 credits; a student that began before fall 2012 can take 138 credits; and any student that began after then can take up to 132 credits.

The excess fee adds 50 percent of per-credit tuition for students that began their programs in before fall 2011. Since then, the fees are 100 percent of tuition.

Exceeding the credit limitation on class schedules can become the most difficult dilemma to fix, as students continually wish to finish more classes in fewer years and worry less about their expected graduation date if they tend to progress quickly.

There is also the worry of students failing courses and having to repeat them for a better grade, only adding to the surcharges that will have to be paid off at some point down the road.

In the end, Lewis believes it is imperative that all students at the University take advantage of the resources offered to them and look to success through course completion each semester.

Cabinet to resign.

Fiusm.com
**Target men to prevent sexual assault**

**SAMANTHA SMITH**  
**Contributing Writer**  
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Too many women feel the need to clench their keys between their fingers as they walk to their car. To have their thumb on a can of pepper spray at night. To be constantly on guard in case some sexual predator is nearby. When one of every four women in college will experience sexual assault, these precautions are not only understandable, they are necessary.

This year, President Barack Obama issued a memorandum to, according to whitehouse.gov, create the “White House Task Force to Protect Students from Sexual Assault.” It is truly a failure of our country that the U.S. Commander in Chief’s job description should include the need to command men not to commit crimes of sexual assault—something that should not, from a moral standpoint, need to be reiterated. In any case, the way we are approaching the subject is completely backward.

Is it great that we are teaching women to protect and defend themselves? Absolutely. Are there many outreach programs directed toward victims of sexual assault? Of course. However, by using measures such as these, we are targeting the wrong gender.

If you’re promoting changes to women’s behaviour to ‘prevent’ rape, you’re really saying ‘make sure he rapes the other girl,’” tweeted @itsmotherswork.

**“Women should not be held accountable for being assaulted. No one is expected to be prepared at all times to be murdered, so why should anyone be expected to be prepared at all times to be raped?”**

Instead of teaching women how to avoid being sexually assaulted, we need to be teaching boys and men not to sexually assault women. Unfortunately, men need to be taught the true definition of rape. If consent is not constant (if someone says “stop,” then stop), conscious (no one should ever be coerced to have sex, physically or otherwise, or be inebriated when giving consent) and clear (there needs to be an explicit “yes” involved in intercourse), then it is sexual assault. There also needs to be a shift in the mindset of society. Sexual assault should be shown as the despicable wrong it is from a humanitarian standpoint. No one should need to relate a rape victim to their sister, daughter or girlfriend in order to see the atrocity inherent in the crime—humanity empathy alone should be enough.

Moreover, women should not be held accountable for being assaulted. No one is expected to be prepared at all times to be murdered, so why should anyone be expected to be prepared at all times to be raped?

So, where are the programs telling men not to rape women? Where are the sexual assault awareness campaigns aimed toward men?

Why do we continue beating a dead horse when there is a stallion that needs to be broken in the field?

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**Brazil’s future lies in new female president**

**ANTONY CORDOVA**  
**Contributing Writer**  
opinion@fiusm.com

Brazil is the largest country by population and production in South America. What happens on Oct. 5, the day of the presidential elections, will transcend the political environment in all Latin America. Dilma Rousseff, the current president and candidate of the Workers Party, and Marina Silva, candidate of the Socialist Party, are the representatives who are most likely to be chosen. The choice of one or the other will lead to substantial changes that extend beyond Latin America and into international politics. Dilma Rousseff has implemented policies that are friendly towards Venezuela and Cuba. She has also has sought to strengthen ties that are friendly towards Venezuela and Cuba.

She will continue one phase or be the beginning of another one, depending on which candidate wins the elections. The choice of one or the other will lead to substantial changes that extend beyond Latin America and into international politics. Dilma Rousseff has implemented policies that are friendly towards Venezuela and Cuba.

This would be a substantial change in the entire Latin American political scenario, as this decade has been a setback in the process of democratization in Latin America.

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**SEND US YOUR LETTERS**

Have something on your mind? Send your thoughts (400 words maximum) to opinion@fiusm.com or drop by our offices at room GC 210 at FUSM. With your letter, be sure to include your name, major, year, and copy of your student ID. The Beacon will only run one letter a month from any individual.

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The Beacon – Monday, September 29, 2014

**SOCCER**

**JAMES PROFETTO**
Staff Writer
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Who is Ashleigh Shim? Who is the 5-foot-4-inch Jamaican star who scarries around any soccer field at a pace unlike her adversary?

On the surface, she’s the type of player who can lay down amongst thousands of rain drops during pregame warmups and make her own version of a snow angel. She dances, she smiles, and plays ukulele. But who is the soul behind all of this?

“I’m just a person that tries to do what I’m supposed to do. I’m a really relaxed person and nonchalant about things,” said Shim. “I just kinda go with the flow and hope life takes me somewhere.”

A serene sense of balance was found in that answer. The response was akin to her playing style and resembles years of good upbringing as a child.

“I grew up in a single parent household,” said Shim. “My mom is my hero. She’s done and sacrificed everything for me. So, I love her a lot for that.”

During Shim’s childhood, obstacles were constructed at a young age. Shim’s parents were divorced before she turned ten years old. Her father, Mark Shim, still lives in Jamaica to this day. When asked about her father, there didn’t seem to be anger, nor was her sadness. The answer was just that: an answer. The strength of Tracy Shim, Shim’s mother, has rubbed off on her daughter and it was evident.

A gentleman by the name of Andrew has played a nice role in Shim’s life as a friend of the family and somebody who can be counted on to attend home games right alongside Tracy Shim.

“That’s my uncle! Well, that’s not my real uncle, but in Jamaica we call older people ‘aunt’ or ‘uncle,’” said Shim. “It’s funny you ask, because I’m the only one in my family and somebody who can be counted on to attend home games right alongside Tracy Shim.”

As captain and quarterback, Ruiz and the team are working on improving on both the offensive and defensive ends of the field and preparing themselves for the other competitive teams they are set to face.

Fraternity men strive to earn winning records

**REBECCA CHARUR**
Staff Writer
rebecca.charur@fiuforum.com

On Sept. 23, all 10 teams went head to head in the intramural flag football league. Despite only being the first week of action, the games were played with a level of competitiveness that made each game feel like the playoffs were just around the corner.

Alpha Epsilon Pi brought this competitive edge to the field on Tuesday night and held Lambda Chi Alpha scoreless, defeating them 31-0. This victory improved their record to 2-0 and earned them first place in the league, ahead of four other undefeated teams, including Divine 9. Divine 9 also kept their winning streak alive by defeating Theta Chi 19-0. Divine 9 is composed of nine multicultural fraternity students who have established themselves, so far, as one of the teams to beat.

Another strong team that has emerged is Beta Theta Pi, who defeated Zeta Beta Tau 20-6 on Tuesday night. The 2-0 start for Beta Theta Pi, with their first win coming against Sigma Alpha Mu, has already shown the league that they have improved overall from a disappointing season last year.

“I was very proud of how the team played, but saw that we still have a long way to go and more things to improve on,” said junior Kristian Ruiz.

As captain and quarterback, Ruiz and the team are working on improving on both the offensive and defensive ends of the field and preparing themselves for the other competitive teams they are set to face.

Pi Kappa Phi defeated Sigma Alpha Mu 13-2. This victory kept them on the list of undefeated teams heading into the third week.

Senior Fernando Trillo said, “Pi Kappa Phi this year has a lot of talent and we are looking to go all the way. We put in a great effort this summer in order to make sure we were ready and we were.” Trillo plays both receiver and safety.

In one of the final games of the night, Sigma Phi Epsilon defeated Tau Kappa Epsilon 18-0. Sigma Phi Epsilon advanced to an undefeated record of 2-0, while, on the other side of the field, Tau Kappa Epsilon was handed its first loss of the season.

Sun, every team was given a first win by the Recreation Center, but some of those same teams earned their second wins. As the season unfolds, we’ll see which teams will continue to earn these victories and which teams might need another gift from the Recreation Center.

STRENGTH, FAITH AND SHIM

Jamaican star shoots for her goals, shines from within

**Rebecca Charur**

Senior forward Ashleigh Shim defends the ball from Stetson players on the game against Stetson University, Sept. 19. Shim had an assist that then connected for the second goal of the day to win 2-0.

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Golf seeks top five finish in Missouri

RAYMOND SIXTO
Contributing Writer

On Sept. 29, the Panthers will play in the Johnie Imes Invitational at the University of Missouri in Columbia, Missouri. They will be part of a field of 15 schools. Here’s a small preview of each team in the tournament:

University of Arkansas at Little Rock: The Trojans have played in two tournaments so far this season, in which they’ve won six and third. The team is led by the trio of junior Nina Resen, senior Solle Kvarnstrom and freshman Sabrina Bonanno. All three have finished in the top 20 in all of their tournaments this year.

Bradley University: The Braves have already participated in five tournaments so far this season. They finished in seventh and eighth in those tournaments. The team is led by junior Danielle Leme, who has won two of their five finishes already this season, including a victory at the Cardinal Cup.

Coastal Carolina University: The Chanticleers have only played one tournament so far this season, finishing ninth. Junior Lena Schaffner leads this team, who finished tied for fourth in their first tournament so far this season.

Florida Gulf Coast University: The Eagles have only been in one other tournament so far this season, when they ended in an eighth place finish. The team is led by senior Georgia Price, who has a team best 76 stroke average and finished tied for 26th place in their one tournament this season.

Florida International University: The Panthers have been in one tournament so far this season, where they finished tied for fifth place. The team was led by junior Meghan MacLaren, who won. The victory was well enough for her to become Conference USA Golfer of the Week.

Illinois State University: The Redbirds have been in three tournaments this year. They’ve finished in first, 11th and 14th. The team is led by redshirt sophomore Brianna Cooper, who has helped her team win the Redbird Invitational by coming in first place at that tournament. She has also finished tied for 14th and 24th this season.

Kansas State University: The Wildcats have played in two tournaments this year. They’ve finished in first and in ninth. They are led by multiple players, but their most consistent golfer so far is sophomore Madison Talley. In two tournaments, she’s finished tied for fifth and 12th.

Middle Tennessee State University: The Blue Raiders have played in two tournaments this year, in which they’ve come in first and fifth. The team is led by junior Avery George, sophomore Samantha Gotcher and junior Emily Williams. All three have had top 20 finishes this season.

University of Missouri: The Tigers are the host of the tournament and come into it having placed second and 20th in their two tournaments so far this year. They are led by redshirt junior Michelle Butler, who has gone into the last two tournaments as the team’s No. 1 golfer.

Oklahoma City University: The Stars have only played in one other tournament this year, which resulted in a fifth place finish. The team was led by freshman Emma Allen, finishing tied for fifth in her first career tournament.

Redlands Community College: They’ve participated in six tournaments so far this year, where they finished in 10th and sixth place. The team is led by sophomore Ivan Reijers, who already has a tournament victory under her belt this year.

University of South Florida: This will be the Bulls’ first tournament of the year. The Bulls enter the year with an experienced team, as they return five players who competed on last year’s team. The team is led by sophomore Ashley Burke, who has had three top ten finishes last year.

University of Missouri-Kansas City: The Kangaroos have been in only one other tournament this year, finishing in tenth. They are led by senior Susan Kirschman, who entered their last tournament as the team’s number one golfer. She recorded four top ten finishes last year.

Wichita State University: The Shockers have only competed in one other tournament this year so far. The team finished in fourth place. They were led by junior Meghan Schuetz and sophomore Samantha Stewart, both are coming off top 10 finishes in their one appearance so far this year.
Throwback: The Police breakout of ‘80s mold with final studio album

Gorgeous film might not be for everyone

COLUMNIST
Lately, I’ve become obsessed with The Police’s final studio album, “Synchronicity.” I bought it on vinyl for my dad a while back as a way of reclaiming his collection. After watching the movie “Pirates of Silicon Valley,” where the first song of the album is featured, I was drawn back to Sting’s lyrics and the complete deviation of this album from anything the band had done before.

Before this album, The Police had been a pop, loosely punk-reggae band, cranking out little pop melodies like “Message in a Bottle,” and “Every Little Thing She Does is Magic.” To me, “Synchronicity” was meant to be their breakout album. Even though the band broke up after it, the commercial and musical success of this album cannot be understated.

The first song on this album is the title track, “Synchronicity.” It starts with little mechanical jingles and drumming in the background, then sooner than you know it, Sting starts his lyrical quest: “With one breath, with one flow. You will know. Synchronicity.” The song really works as an introduction to the album. Lines like, “Science insusceptible. Logic so inflexible. Causally connectible. Yet nothing is invincible,” give us examples of how the album has changed from ‘80s style synth music to a calm blend of world music with electronic drumming patterns reminiscent of tribal drumming. This shifting of musical genres is a common theme for the album as a whole.

“Walking in your Footsteps,” talks about dinosaurs, an odd topic for a punk band that used to sing things like “Message in a Bottle.” The song has a line that I find almost outdated, “If we explode the atom bomb. Would they say that we were dumb.” While we don’t worry about atom bombs as much these days, it’s an interesting relic within the song of this ‘80s fear.

The next song, “O my God” isn’t much to write about. The song shows off The Police’s reggae roots with a bit of bossa nova and jazz, but it’s unremarkable because of that. It doesn’t really break any new ground. I find it to be the least enjoyable song in this album.

On the other hand, track four is one of the most polarizing amongst fans. I searched through forums and found comments on “Mother” varying between “This song is utter garbage,” to “This song is sheer genius.” I actually really like this song’s distorted saxophone and trumpets, the Arabic soundscape, wailing guitar and Sting’s howling of the lyrics. It’s definitely not a good song in terms of traditional song making or writing, but it’s an interesting look into making somebody’s psyche and feelings about their mother into a song. To me, the song is meant to be a break out of the band’s label of “pop punk.”

This song is not the sort of thing
Aphex Twin comes out of hibernation

By Rafał Abreu

Release date: September 29, 2014

Rating: 4/5

Aphex Twin comes out of hibernation

Effect without a Cause: Synchronicity

By Luis Santana

Release date: October 2, 2014

Rating: 4/5
Tradition returns, uniting cultures, embracing diversity